

126. 21. (New) An apparatus for quantitatively evaluating image quality characteristics of an ultrasound scanner, comprising:

- (a) a processor; and
- (b) computer software operative on the processor for performing

the steps of:

- (1) selecting a phantom test object within an image;
- (2) quantitative processing of said image to evaluate image quality characteristics of the scanner for diagnostic purposes; and
- (3) outputting results of the quantitative processing.

REMARKS

This amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.312 requests (1) a minor amendment to allowed claim 6 to correct a grammatical error; and (2) an addition of an apparatus claim (claim 21) that is complimentary to allowed method claim 6.

I. Amendment to Allowed Claim 6 Corrects a Grammatical Error In the Preamble

With respect to the amendment to allowed claim 6. The preposition "of" is added to the preamble so that the preamble is grammatically correct. With this amendment the preamble reads as follows: "A method of quantitatively evaluating image quality characteristics of an ultrasound scanner, comprising the steps of:".

This amendment does not affect the scope of the claim. The amendment simply corrects a grammatical mistake in the preamble of the claim.

